

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIV, Issue No. 070

WEDNESDAY MARCH 10, 2004

www.saipantribune.com 50¢

I N S I D E

See NORITA on Page 8

See HOUSE on Page 8

Local



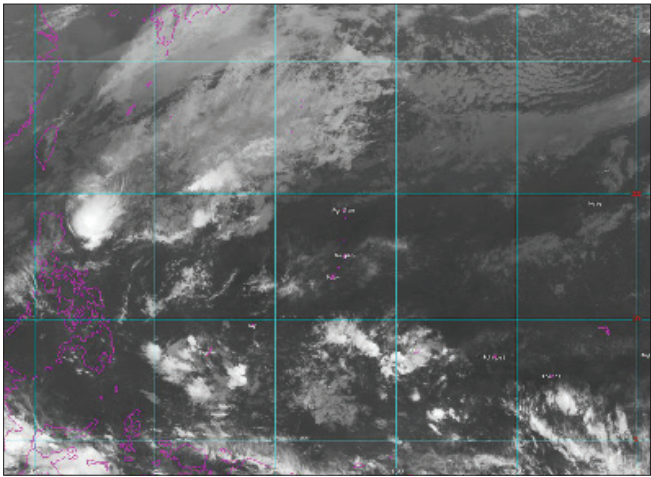
PTC-CAPRICCIOSA

CARS UNLIMITED

CENTURY TRAVEL


COMMUNITY Briefs

WEATHER FORECAST




PICTURE TIME: 1:00 AM., MARCH 9, 2004
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.


Fresh to strong trade winds across much of Micronesia converging into lighter winds near the Equator are producing scattered showers between the Equator and 8n from 130e to 153 and between the Equator and 6n from 160e to 180. A cold front stretches from 25n161e to 20n146e and continues as a shear line to 19n130e. Low- and mid-level clouds...light rain and showers associated this feature extend up to 200 miles north of the boundary. Trade wind convergence south of the cold front/shear line is producing low clouds and showers between 12n and 18n from 132e to 150e. This area includes the Mariana Islands.




SAIPAN AND TINIAN
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 15-20 mph. Highs near 87. Lows near 76.




GUAM AND ROTA
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 15-20 mph. Highs near 87. Lows near 76.




PALAU
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 15 kt.




POHNPEI
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 15 kt.




YAP AND ULITHI
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 15-20 kt.






















KOSRAE
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 10-15 kt.



CHUUK
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 15-20 kt.



MAJURO
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
Winds: East at 15-20 kt.

CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
 Auckland	Sunny	71F (22C)	60F (16C)
 Beijing	Sunny	65F (18C)	48F (9C)
 Hong Kong	Sunny	74F (23C)	61F (16C)
 Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82F (28C)	68F (20C)
 London, England	Sunny	45F (7C)	30F (-1C)
 Los Angeles	Sunny	79F (26C)	59F (15C)
 Manila	Partly Cloudy	88F (31C)	73F (23C)
 Melbourne	Sunny	75F (24C)	59F (15C)
 Miami	Partly Cloudy	72F (22C)	54F (12C)
 New York City	Cloudy	40F (4C)	34F (1C)
 Osaka	Partly Cloudy	37F (3C)	25F (-4C)
 Paris	Partly Cloudy	38F (3C)	25F (-4C)
 Pusan	Partly Cloudy	53F (12C)	39F (4C)
 Rome	Cloudy	49F (9C)	30F (-1C)
 Salem, Oregon	Partly Cloudy	60F (16C)	40F (4C)
 San Francisco	Sunny	68F (20C)	52F (11C)
 Seoul	Partly Cloudy	47F (8C)	35F (2C)
 Tokyo, Japan	Partly Cloudy	42F (6C)	36F (2C)
 Washington, DC	Cloudy	45F (7C)	34F (1C)

SAIPANCELL
CMYK
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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The schools go flabby

Surely the school accountability movement never meant for this to happen, but here we are: Schools are required by law to raise children's reading and math scores, not their fitness levels. Strapped for cash and instructional time, educators are eliminating gym classes and cutting back on recess.

At the same time, the percentage of children who are obese has tripled over the last two decades, with their healthcare costs rising correspondingly. Children have higher rates of adult-type diabetes and, according to a report this month in the Journal of the American Medical Assn., higher blood pressure as well. Exercise, along with better diet, would help.

Despite recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. surgeon general, fewer than 10 percent of schools provide daily physical education. The CDC reports that one-quarter of children take no gym classes. Georgia eliminated PE requirements four years ago, and Atlanta schools, under pressure to raise academic outcomes, have killed recess and are building schools without playgrounds. Nearly 30 percent of elementary schools nationally have no regularly scheduled recess.

Minnesota has eliminated physical education as a graduation requirement, and Florida allows high schoolers the ultimate contradiction, an online fitness class. Physical education has gone into such a tailspin that Kansas State University shuttered its certification program for gym teachers a few years ago, and the University of Kansas may do the same. College students aren't signing up for what looks like a dead end.

Research shows that physically active kids do better academically and that low-performing students are more likely to be obese. Without exercise at school, children are unlikely to get enough elsewhere. Fewer than one-fourth of school-age children are physically active for 20 minutes daily, even with gym classes—though the CDC recommends at least half an hour each day. Close to a quarter of preteens don't participate in any physical activity outside of school.

Many children can't. Impoverished urban areas offer fewer recreational activities; witness the decision not to open six Los Angeles public swimming pools this summer. Neighborhoods can be too dangerous to play outside. Yet black males already are at higher genetic risk for high blood pressure and diabetes. Latinos and all children in low-income households are more likely to become obese.

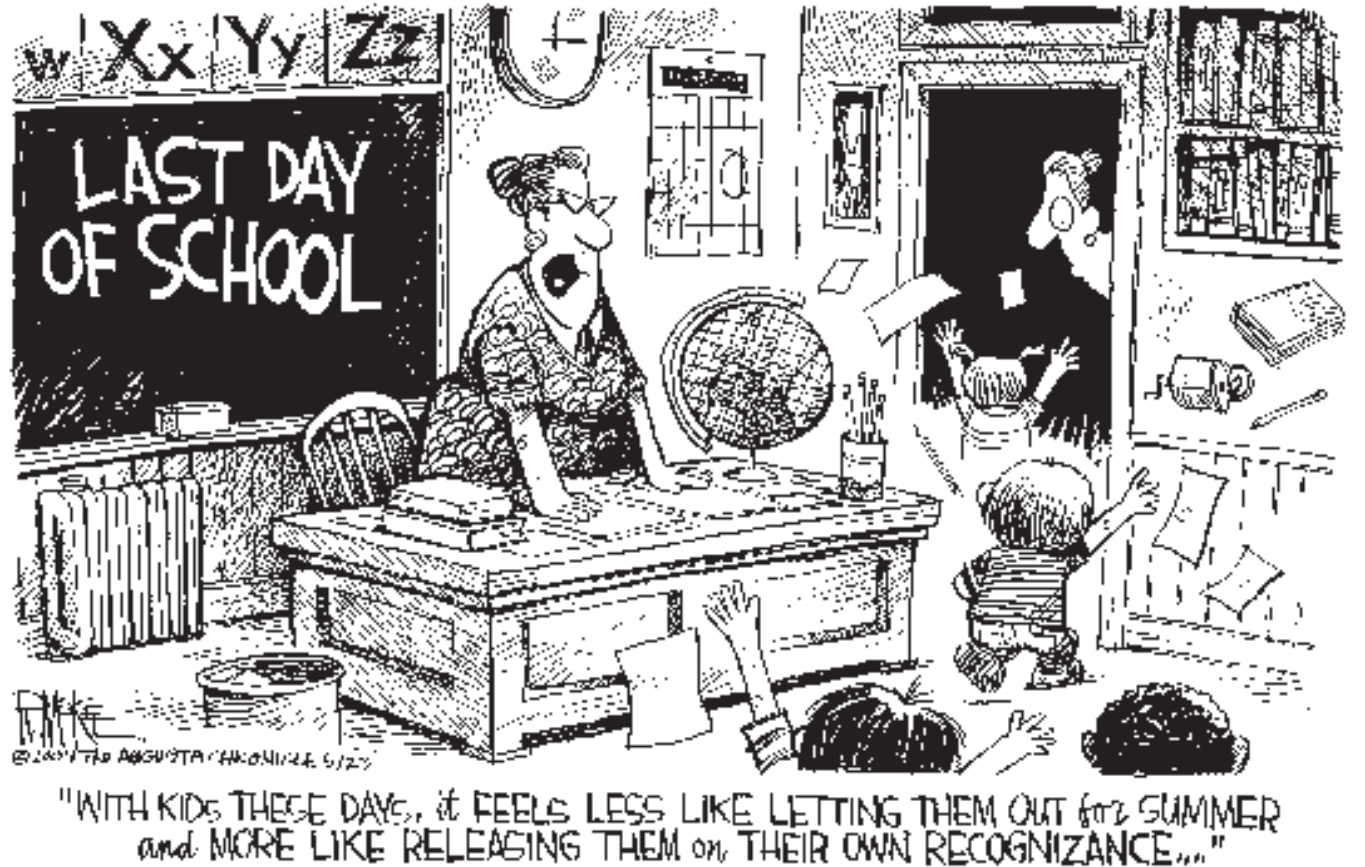
Unlike many states, California requires daily gym classes, though the requirements fall off in high school. But the state doesn't check compliance. A district in the Sacramento area recently cut back PE to save money, and Bakersfield schools are headed the same way.

With portable buildings plopped on blacktop, many California schools have no space for children to run or play ball. Students are relegated to the likes of jumping jacks—no way to turn children on to the joys of exercise. And with up to 75 students crammed into a class, half the kids are hanging out in the back, chatting instead of moving.

The statistics reflect schoolyard reality. Fewer than a quarter of California students meet minimal physical fitness standards, and more than a quarter are overweight, according to results of the California Physical Fitness Test given to fifth-, seventh- and ninth-graders. That is significantly worse than the national average.

President Bush has urged Americans to get more physically active. But as with reading, schools won't give priority to exercise until it is required and they are able to fund it. It's a shallow victory when children can pass algebra but can't walk a mile to school.

Los Angeles Times



Getting the car out of the ditch

Driving up the winding road toward Capitol Hill one can enjoy a beautiful view of Managaha and the ocean. At one corner there appears to be a grassy space where tourists can turn off the road and park so they can take some pictures, capturing their wonderful visit to the Islands.

Unfortunately, the area also has a big ditch that is easily visible when the grass is cut, but it can not be seen when the grass grows longer. Every few months, we would drive down the road and discover another rental car caught in the ditch like an insect in a Venus's-fly-trap plant. Unable to escape, the cars were usually abandoned until a tow truck was brought to pull it out.

There are a lot of "cars" stuck in the ditch right now, except they are called businesses, public schools, government agencies, or the CNMI as a whole. Many have placed warning signs along the road to alert the "cars" about the big hole ahead. Some "cars" have heeded the warnings to avoid falling into the trap, but others, like lemmings mesmerized by the hope of better times ahead, continue to march toward the grassy side of the road because they don't believe what they've heard.

Sometimes the warning signs have been so numerous and obvious that people have become comfortably numbed to the reality of the situation. One can rationalize: "The ground hasn't dropped out from beneath us yet, so everything must be okay, right?"

Those who have great confidence in the government surmise: "Our leaders are not worried, so why should I be. Besides, if we get stuck, Uncle Sam's tow truck will come to bail us out of the hole like they've always done before."

Instead of doing what would seem like the obvious solution to the problem—fill the hole—the grass keeps getting mowed, just to grow back again. Besides, getting people out of the hole mess makes heroes out of the rescuers—and that makes people feel real good and provides job security.

Unfortunately, too many "cars" have been abandoned when they got stuck in the hole. Businesses have failed, and organizations have shut their doors. Investors seeing what is happening tend to be very cautious about the situation and just keep driving by to check other places without so many pitfalls.

If you find that your "car" is stuck in the ditch, here are three things you should do: First, discover how you got into the ditch (crisis). You should look before you leap into anything that may get you stuck even deeper. There is a tendency that some drivers

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is the owner of Positively Outrageous Results. They have consulted with over 400 businesses in 40 different industries. For better business results go to BizResults.biz to read previous articles.



(manager/directors) know all the answers. Make sure you know the problem before you spend too much time trying to get out. If you don't, you may find that you've pulled yourself into a deeper ditch.

Second, once you understand your situation and how you got there, get out of the ditch as quickly as possible. Gather ideas from everyone in the organization. It amazes us how blind those at the top of an organization can be to simple solutions that are obvious to the frontline people. Communication is essential to gather ideas and let people know what is happening and how the company will succeed.

Anne Mulcahy, who was promoted to president and COO of Xerox Corporation when it was in deep trouble several years ago, said: "Crisis can be a powerful motivator. It enables you to do things you should have been doing all along. Whoever said that nothing focuses the mind like the sight of the gallows had it right."

And last, make sure to do whatever it takes to keep the car from falling in the ditch again. Some solutions are simple. Others will take constant vigilance to avoid the same mistakes. More often, than not, the car got stuck because the person behind the wheel was not paying attention to the warning signs, and got too careless. Mulcahy gives further advice: "Poor leadership can do serious damage virtually overnight. Good leadership—leadership that is consistent, honest, and forceful—can move mountains." Or at least keep the organization from falling into more trouble.

The next time you are driving up the beautiful winding road to Capitol Hill, see if the hole has been filled, or has the grass grown tall enough to keep it hidden from the next unsuspecting victim who will pull over to enjoy the scenery from the side of the road. Solutions are sometimes simple; it's finding someone who is willing to grab a shovel that is often the difficult part.

Letters to the Editor

Saipan Tribune welcomes contributions. All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name, address and, if possible, fax or telephone number. Letters are edited for space, clarity and fairness.

Bring back P.E. in schools

I have read articles and talked to doctors on the health of citizens of the CNMI, about the high incidence of type II diabetes, heart problems, high blood pressure, and the huge burden on the Commonwealth Heath Center, the insurance programs, and the medical referral program. I have also seen an effort to get people out walking and taking care of their health.

What I have not seen is a concerted effort to reinstate formal Physical Education/Health education classes in the Public Elementary Schools, taught by qualified Physical Education teachers. If a child isn't taught at an early age, to play, exercise, choose healthy foods, and stay away from drugs (and that includes betel nut chewing), why would he be expected to be anything but unhealthy and out of shape as an adult?

I have seen the problems come through my work at the SDA Clinic. Amazingly enough, teeth and gums tell a very large story about a person's health. I also coached the Saipan Swim Club for many years and the difference between those children starting at a young age in a regular exercise program and those who have done nothing is so obvious.

Yes, it is nice to do all the bi-annual walk-a-thons but I can guarantee you that if you get Physical Education back into the elementary schools with qualified teachers and ongoing programs on a daily basis, you will find the health of the CNMI children improving and you will see an increase in their ability to pay attention in class and learn.

Children need to play. Supervised play and the learning of physical skills, sportsmanship, and team unity only serve to make them more able to cope as adults and not be afraid of the challenges in life. The lack of equipment only means that children must learn to take care of what they do have. We are so used to making exceptions and excuses as to why equipment is stolen or why children can't learn to exercise, but we don't hold our standards high enough for them to aspire to.

There are lots of ways to teach without state of the art equipment. I coached swimming for 10 yrs in hotel swimming pools. Out of those years several of our swimmers made it on to college teams. How? By not letting them know how deprived they were, and how small our pool was, and how financially poor our team was. Our morning workouts were in the ocean many times so we wouldn't disturb the hotel guests. It was a bonus, swimmers got to see the sun rise, swim with the baby stingrays, and learn to love the lagoon and its many changing scenes.

Get the PE teachers out of the Social Studies classrooms. Let them do what they are trained to do.

Jean Sakovich
Hilo, Hawaii

I can't find nothing

I have been reading the Dr. Martin Luther King bill but I could not find anywhere written in the bill the specifics and direct benefits the people of the CNMI now enjoy. Scrap the President's Day holiday because we can't vote for the president? What a bummer, if I am allowed to say! Good Uncle Sam, after combining Abe and Georgie together into one President's Day, now our CNMI legislators want to do their own thing, too. Before I get myself into another media fight, I would like to suggest that the 14th CNMI Legislature let the public vote on this issue in the next general election. Wouldn't it be great to see and hear from our elected leaders what they have to say in their next campaign as each attempt to count the direct benefits off their fingers or grope for words?

How about the MVA managing director's position? Let me tell you that I think something is cooking in there and it was not soba because there ain't people lining up with paper bowls and chopsticks in their hands. Don't take my word for what it's worth. A plugged nickel's worth maybe but it still raises eyebrows, no?

I don't blame Mr. Santos with a master's degree for complaining about the faster-than-the-bullet-train-in-Japan action of the MVA board. I could live with the adage, "To the victor belongs the spoils," but isn't the scenario being stretched too far?

Use your imagination people, before everyone take turns pulling the wool over your eyes. Try to visualize who are the key players in this adventure.

Gonzalo Santos
Capitol Hill

Call for less spin and more facts

If Don Farrell, the spokesman for Azmar International, wants to stop false rumors and general ignorance about his employer, perhaps the first step should be full public disclosure of Azmar's plans for Pagan. How about sharing with the public—whose assets you are asking for—some of the following:

- 1. An independent Environmental Impact Study
- 2. A detailed Operational Plan
- 3. Evidence that Azmar International is qualified to mine at all.

Ignorance is very widespread about Azmar International for the simple reason that they are a secretive organization. Their tiny website provides nothing but promises—no details as to how they plan to make good on these promises. They conduct their meetings behind closed doors and have provided virtually no documents detailing their plans and qualifications to the public.

I can provide some facts about Azmar. All of these facts are based on statements by the people at Azmar and documents that unpaid, concerned citizens like myself have collected and made available on the PaganWatch page at <http://www.chamorro.com/pagan>.

Here are some of these facts.

1. Kenneth James Moore stated that he plans to use money intended to build a World War II museum for mining operations. Here is an excerpt from his Jan. 18, 2004 e-mail to Cinta Kaipat, the president of the United Northern Marianas Islanders Association, when he tried unsuccessfully to get her support for his plans to strip-mine Pagan:

"I have been given \$46mm via an Irrevocable line of credit directed to Azmar International to aid in the development of the Azmar Foundation. It sits at this moment in Credit Suisse directed for my disposition. The purpose of the foundation is to build a U.S. National War Museum. I thought I could use these monies to help develop Pagan."

2. Kenneth James Moore has no mining experience. Neither does Don Farrell. Kenneth James Moore is a retired venture capitalist; Don Farrell is a retired high school biology teacher. Azmar International was created specifically for the Pagan mining venture. Azmar has no experience in mining anything.

3. Removing pozzolan involves the use of dynamite and heavy equipment. Soil in the Mariana Islands is generally shallow with areas of deeper soil and areas of exposed rock. It will not be possible to simply "scoop off the pozzolan" as Don Farrell says and leave the underlying top soil untouched.

Again, I refer you to the PaganWatch page on Chamorro.com. There you'll find several links to pozzolan mining companies that explain how pozzolan is mined and show the bare rock surfaces that remain.

4. According to Moore in his open letter published in the Jan. 20, 2003 Saipan Tribune, Azmar will be operational in just 60 days:

"Frankly, unless our mainland research was critically flawed, we

expected to be operational, shipping pozzolan to the United States, in 60 days or less."

This obviously does not provide time for any kind of environmental impact study or plans to minimize the impact on the environment, avoid soil loss and the pollution of the surrounding waters. This does not sound like the ideas of an individual with any serious concern for the environment. It is ridiculous to believe that all the required infrastructure from building a dock and loading facilities, roads, storage facilities, housing for workers, etc. could be in place in that amount of time.

Let's see that "mainland research." I think it might be critically flawed.

Mr. Farrell made the statement that I categorized him as "a money-grubbing anti-environmentalist bent on destroying Pagan for personal gain." I said no such thing; those are not my words; they're Mr. Farrell's. All I did was quote his own words to Ruth Tighe, which was published in the April 16, 2004 edition of "On my Mind." No personal attack; simply a quote and a difference of opinion.

Mr. Farrell also said that I had made "a personal attract (sic) against not only me, but also Mr. Moore, the Mayor of the Northern Mariana Islands, the MPLA Board of Directors and their staff, the Governor and Lt. Governor, CRM, DEQ, EPA and the great majority of CNMI citizens". Really? Or is that just a way to spin what I said to make it seem like a personal attack. No, there was no personal attack—just a public plea to public officials for the protection of the beautiful island of Pagan and a reminder that the long-term consequences of signing with the wrong mining company are not worth the short-term gain. Further, with no public involvement in the decision-making process and with closed door negotiations, there is no other way for concerned citizens to participate in this most important of issues than to make the debate public. And without this input, MPLA has only the information provided them from Azmar to base its decision on. I think you underestimate the Governor, Lt. Governor, the Northern Island Mayor and the MPLA. They've been around awhile—they know it's not personal.

Frankly, the Azmar deal is a bad one. It's not worth the little money it would provide. Eleven million dollars a year is not going to bail the CNMI out of its \$100 million-plus deficit. Taking a chance on an unproven company with no real plan and no experience is taking a big chance with one of the CNMI's most treasured assets. It's just not worth it.

Peter J. (Pangelinan) Perez
Gualo Rai, Saipan and
San Francisco, California

To the MPLA board members

Last week, you met with Azmar representative Don Farrell to entertain their request for a mining permit. My request to attend that meeting was politely turned down as you indicated through your attorney, Mr. Quichocho, that this was a private meeting, but offered instead to meet with me after the Azmar meeting. I accepted and passed along all my contact numbers. I waited all afternoon, but the telephone call never came.

I since recently learned that the board met yesterday to entertain granting Azmar's permit request. I respectfully and urgently request

that the board not take any action on this matter until a public hearing has been conducted to allow the Northern Islands residents and the citizens of the CNMI an opportunity to review and comment on all the proposals submitted to MPLA.

Cinta M. Kaipat
President
United Northern Mariana Islanders Association

Rights and freedoms under BOE

BOE's manipulation of this letter issue and use of BOE materials is a clear example of rights violations under BOE. But teachers and the community are smart and they should see BOE is trying its best to control and even eliminate me to end teachers' chances for collective bargaining by taking away my freedom and rights.

The questions still remain, however: Does BOE have the power to take away freedom of expression, freedom of the Teacher Rep. to communicate with teachers, the freedom to communicate with the freedom to use my own time? So what happened to teachers' and the BOE Teacher Rep.'s right under the CNMI Constitution and federal law?

A "personal" letter hurt Mr. Guerrero's feeling but instead of keeping it personal the whole CNMI is informed. The personal complaint of Mr. Guerrero about my personal letter should have gone through a grievance procedure without involving the board and entire CNMI. I haven't done anything disruptive to the Board's operations and functions. In fact, I have already made some contributions to new policy.

I would also like to know what happened to the working relationship the BOE and I had established and our agreement to work things out among ourselves without going to the media? This was the only real disappointment for me in this matter.

As for my use of the letterhead, anyone with an ounce of objectivity in them will know that I have a right to use the BOE stationary and other things of PSS, just like any other BOE member. BOE members just don't have a need to communicate with teachers like I do as the BOE Teacher Rep. I am a BOE member, not a BOE puppet and for the chair to approve every letter and my every act would

mean the chair is the Teacher Rep. and not me. Whatever happened to my freedom to do my job?

Even if BOE does not like the communication, it is my fiduciary duty to assist teachers with their concerns and goals. It is also my right to communicate with teachers in a formal and "uncensored" manner as their Teacher Rep. on the Board. The only stipulation is that I cannot represent myself as speaking for the entire BOE unless authorized to do so.

I do want to apologize to my fellow teachers and anyone else that might have felt offended by my letter but this is just another distraction that the average person should be able to see through and teachers shouldn't let this derail their efforts to have a real voice in BOE policy through bargaining. Teachers need only to continue working with their school Rep.'s and by showing up for the teachers' meeting on the May 29, from 10am to noon at the Multi-Purpose Center.

The good part about all the fuss BOE is making about taking away my rights and freedom over a finger is nothing — only a reminder of the old South. This "temporary" loss of my rights to use BOE stationary will have no affect on teachers and their rights to bargain. Teachers don't need to do or say anything; just remain supportive, attend meetings and cooperate with your school level reps.

Teachers' rights will become part of CNMI history as teachers have the law on their side and the law will always prevail in time. Teachers only need to stay the course and let their reps do the rest. All teachers, one direction.

Ambrose M. Bennett
BOE Teacher Rep.

START

From Page 1

DPS holds Friday checkpoints

The Department of Public Safety’s Traffic Section will be conducting Occupant Protection and Child Restraint checkpoints on Friday, May 28.

The first setup will be on Beach Road Susupe by the Ada Gymnasium. This operation will commence at approximately 9am and will be terminated at approximately 10:15am.

The second setup will be on Beach Road Garapan by Bank Pacific. This operation will commence at approximately 4pm and will be terminated at approximately 5:15pm.

Each checkpoint conducted will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location.

This activity is part of the Department of Public Safety’s efforts to deter and detect and ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

In addition, traffic officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

For more information, contact Sgt. Sylvan M. Rangamar at 664-9084/5.

NMC spends over \$70K in legal fees in ’03

By **LIBERTY DONES**
REPORTER

Documents show that the Northern Marianas College spent over \$70,000 in legal fees in 2003.

The money was paid to the Law Offices of Vicente T. Salas, the law firm of NMC legal counsel Jesse Borja. The figure translates to approximately 500 hours of legal work based on the \$150 to \$125 hourly rate charged by the firm.

NMC has been retaining the services of Borja and an associate to handle all its legal matters.

The college has the option to get the services of the Attorney General’s Office for free. In a Feb. 28, 2003 opinion, then Attorney General Ramona Manglona noted in response to former Rep. Stanley Torres that the AGO has the constitutional duty to act as counsel for the governor and Executive Branch agencies, including NMC.

Torres was at that time asking Manglona if her office could cover the Legislature.

“As the CNMI AG, I have the constitutional duty to act as counsel to the governor and the Executive Branch. This duty has created the traditional attorney-client relationship with those agencies. Therefore, my duty to the Executive Branch agencies, including the NMC, precludes me from answering any questions pertaining to the propriety NMC’s actions,” she said.

“For the AGO to provide opinions of law to the Legislature would raise a concern about separation of powers. For

these reasons, I will be unable to respond to your request for a legal opinion,” Manglona had told Torres.

Meantime, an NMC critic said that even if the college decides to pay an attorney from the AGO for the same amount (\$70,000), it still is a better deal compared with the current practice of retaining a private lawyer.

For \$70,000, the critic said that NMC would get a full year—2,080 hours—of legal work, way above the 500 hours services of a private lawyer.

DLNR invites public to Agri Fair

By **SHAN SEMAN**
REPORTER

Department of Land and Natural Resources Secretary Richard B. Seman grabbed the opportunity to attract more spectators to the upcoming silver anniversary celebration of the Saipan Agriculture Fair by inviting the public to the fair during the weekly Saipan Rotary Club meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday noon.

Seman called on all members of the community to grace the event with their presence and witness the various activities scheduled, including a greased pig catching contest, bingo, cockfight, coconut husking, and the traditional animal, plant, and ornament competition.

The fair highlights the celebration of May as Mes Lancheros, or farmers’ month.

Last week, Division of Agriculture director Donald G. Flores confirmed that the preparation process is “on schedule” and would be completed before the start of the event, which for the first time in its history, would be celebrated for three days.

The fair kicks off this Friday, May 28, and will conclude on Sunday, May 30, at the Civic Center. The opening ceremony will be held at 8am on May 29. The judging in the animal, plant, and ornament competitions is also set for the same day.

Flores said the animal division would be located east of the 4-H building, which has been renovated and will be used to house the plant division. The ornament division showdown will be held at the Civic Center basketball court.

The 4-H building was renovated through DOA funds and was completed last week. The cost for the renovation was about \$13,000.

Registration of entries is currently ongoing. Farmers and ranchers have until the morning of May 29 to submit entries for the animal division, while deadline for the plant division is May 28 at 10pm. Each person must pay a fee of \$10 plus an additional \$1 for each entry for both the Plant and Animal divisions.

Gov. Juan N. Babauta officially declared the month as Mes Lancheros late last month.

Other events farmers did in celebration of the month were giving tours of farms to various organizations, including the man’amko, and donating produce to the senior citizens and the CHC Volunteers.

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EPA fines firm \$15K for tank violations

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has fined the Cocos Lagoon Development Corp. \$15,518 for alleged federal underground storage tank violations on Saipan.

The company owned and operated two underground storage tanks at its power plant for the La Fiesta, San Roque shopping center. The two 15,000-gallon tanks contained diesel petroleum product used to run the facility's power generators.

"The federal rules are very clear about what an owner-operator needs to do in order to properly maintain an underground storage tank," said

Jeff Scott, director of Waste Programs for the EPA Pacific Southwest Region. "Leak prevention and detection is critical to prevent tanks from contaminating the precious underground freshwater sources in Saipan."

This is the third time that EPA and CNMI Division of Environmental Quality officials have inspected La Fiesta. Yesterday's penalty is the first formal underground storage tank administrative action pursued in the CNMI.

The EPA alleges that, at various times, the company failed to:

- Properly perform leak detection on the tanks;
- Maintain records relating to the facility's lead detection system;
- Maintain records of having actually used leak detection;
- Use overfill prevention equipment on the tanks and;
- Provide financial responsibility for taking action in case of any accidental releases

A December 1998 federal deadline required regulated underground storage tanks to have spill and overfill equipment, corrosion protection, and

The façade of the La Fiesta shopping mall in San Roque. The building used to be operated by Cocos Lagoon Development Corp. but has been sold to the Northern Marianas College, which had been planning to use it for its Pacific Gateway project.

EDITH ALEJANDRO



release detection methods to prevent releases.

The EPA frequently conducts unannounced tank inspections and the CNMI DEQ is also conducting annual inspections of

every underground storage tank facility in CNMI. Owners and operators who are cited with a field citation can correct the violations, submit documentation, and pay the settlement amount

within 30 days. Formal administrative complaints may also be pursued for violations and may subject owners and operator to penalties of up to \$11,000 per violation per tank per day in

addition to the added cleanup costs for leaking tanks.

More information on the EPA's underground storage tank program can be obtained at www.epa.gov/OUST/.

DPS to set checkpoints Monday

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting Occupant Protection and Child Restraint and Sobriety checkpoints on Monday, May 24.

The first setup will be on 2W Puerto Rico on the southbound lanes. This operation will start around 8am and will end around 9:15am.

The second setup will be on B/R Chalan Laulau by the New BJ Garden Restaurant on the southbound lanes. This operation will start around 3pm and will be terminated at about 4:15pm.

Each checkpoint conducted will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location. This activity is part of the department's efforts to deter and detect and ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

In addition, traffic officers will be conducting highway criminal interdiction's, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

For more information, contact Sgt. Joseph Flores at 664-9084 to 86.

Beach Road closed Saturday

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section is informing the public that Beach Road Garapan from the Horiguchi Building north to the Garapan Fire Sub-Station II will be closed on Saturday, May 22, for the CNMI Council for Sports and Fitness Mass Walk.

Traffic heading south along Beach Road Garapan by the Bank of Guam traffic signal lights intersection will be routed east toward Happy Market.

Motorists are urged to use the 2W Highway and refrain from using Beach Road Garapan between the hours of 5:30am to 7am.

For more information, contact Sgt. Sylvan M. Rangamar 664-9084/5.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities executive director Thomas J. Camacho, second from left, meets with Albanian Ambassador Fatos Tarifa, Ph.D. and U.S. Rep. Walter Jones at the Republican Capitol Hill Club. Joining them is Valentina Leskaj, right, a parliament member of Albania.

CDD exec follows up issues in DC

Thomas J. Camacho, executive director of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, was recently in Washington D.C. to attend the 2004 Office of Special Education Program Leadership Conference held May 11-14.

As chair of the Federal IDEA Part C Interagency Leadership Council, Camacho said this official trip was sponsored by the Early Childhood Program, Public School System.

He also met with Washington Resident Representative to the United States Pete A. Tenorio to discuss and seek support toward the reauthorization of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998.

The AT Act provides nearly \$700,000 in federal funding to the CNMI through the Council, which administers the Assistive Technology Project and the Trankilu Alternative Financing Program.

He said the OSEP Leadership

Conference provided insights and valuable information on the intent and purpose of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, as well the Federal Government Performance Results Act.

Much of the time spent throughout the whole week event was the OSEP-CNMI Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process), the Continuous Monitoring Focused Improvement Plan and the Annual Performance Report.

Buck Battalion changes command

The Rota Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps held its change of command last May 22 at the Man'Amko Center in Sinapalo, Rota, with cadet Maj. Queeny Ayuyu directing the entire formation of cadets in the ceremony.

Standing in formation for a long time, the cadets stood tall and looked sharp in their uniforms at the parking lot of the Rota Man'Amko Center, with complete disregard for the hot sun.

The formation was made up of two companies: Headquarters commanded by cadet Capt. Ivan Mereb, and Alpha Company commanded by cadet Capt. Leonard Aveina. The Color Guard team was commanded by cadet 2nd Lt. Steven Masga.

The ceremony began with the sounding of the bugle signaling the start of assembly, followed by the inspection of the cadet formation led by Education Commissioner Rota H. Inos, Rota High School acting principal William Aguon, and the Rota Mayor's representative. They were joined by outgoing battalion commander cadet Lt. Col. Michele Manglona and

incoming battalion commander cadet Lt. Col. Nadia Manglona.

In a statement, the Rota Buck said that its spirit and motivation were lifted with the attendance of Inos; Sens. Paul Manglona and Paterno Hocog; the Rota Community Council; and CNMI State Board member Marja Lee Taitano, as well as other distinguished guests.

During the ceremony, cadet Lt. Col. Michele Manglona was presented a plaque of appreciation by SGM Herman Atalig, Rota Buck Senior Army Instructor; and MSG Juan C. Salas, the Buck Army Instructor, for her outstanding performance of duties as battalion commander of the Buck.

Cadet Lt. Col. Nadia Manglona also received her promotion to her current rank and assumed command of the battalion.

This traditional ceremony was performed with the symbolic passing of the Battalion Color between the two commanders. In this ceremonial ritual, the principal passes the Color from the old to the new commander. The passage of the Color relinquishes the responsi-

bility and authority from the old to the new commander.

Both commanders, Michele and Nadia, gave inspirational speeches.

Michele reflected on the design of the JROTC Program and apologized for the times she appeared to be hard and demanding on the Buck Battalion cadets, but thought it had to be done to ensure that the battalion's mission is accomplished.

Nadia pledged to the battalion to do her best to maintain the proud heritage of the Bucks, and vowed to even try harder to make it better than what it is today.

Both expressed their heartfelt appreciation to the two Buck Army instructors for their continued selfless and effective guidance and directions they have given the cadets. Michele and Nadia ended their speeches thanking their parents for their part in helping them in their successes in the JROTC Program.

Nadia is not only the new Buck Battalion commander but also the Queen candidate for this year's 4th of July festivity representing the island of Rota and the Buck Battalion JROTC Program.



LIBERTY DONES

LIFE INSURANCE

Government nursing staff enlist on the first day of re-enrollment for life insurance under the NMI Retirement Fund's Group Health and Life Insurance program.



RE-ENROLMENT

Public School System teachers take time Monday to re-enroll with Individual Assurance Company, which provides the life insurance coverage for the NMI Retirement Fund's Government Health and Life Insurance program.

LIBERTY DONES



WHERE'S MINE?

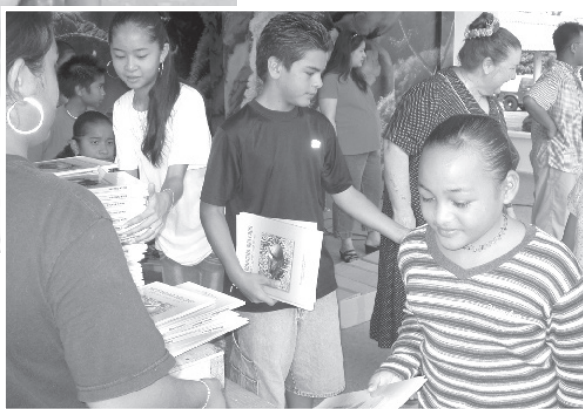
Garapan Elementary School students line up to get their newly published book, Mariana Mallard: Duck Stories From Around the World. The book features stories that are retold and illustrated by GES students.

LIBERTY DONES

CHIEF MALLARD

Children's book-making master Katharyn Tuten-Puckett supervises the distribution of Marian Mallard: Duck Stories From Around the World Monday at Garapan Elementary School, the home of the mallards.

LIBERTY DONES



CORRECTION

The caption in this picture that came out yesterday should have read: Office of Insular Affairs director Jeff Schorr poses for photo with recipients of the Junior Statesmen Summer School Program full scholarship: Emmanuel Borja (center) Casey Borja (right), and Elaine Benjamin, who received the certificate on behalf of her daughter Nicole during a ceremony Monday night at the Pizza Hut. Our apologies.

Asia

Gunmen steal ballot boxes in Philippines



Manila’s public workers clean up election posters on a street Tuesday morning, May 11, 2004.

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s election foe claimed he was being cheated out of a victory, and police said Wednesday that gunmen attacked two northern town halls, killing a policeman and burning presidential ballots.

A nationwide survey projected that Arroyo earned 41 percent of the vote while movie star Fernando Poe Jr. earned 32 percent. But a “quick count” by an election watchdog group showed Poe leading early Wednesday by about 40 percent to 36 percent.

Poe’s camp has alleged widespread irregularities in Monday’s voting and he urged his backers to “remain firm in our belief in the truth that victory is ours.” About 3,000 supporters gathered in Manila’s financial district Tuesday night, singing, “FPJ, the hope of the nation.”

Poe outlined a list of alleged problems in Monday’s polling, including men in military uniforms opening boxes to burn ballots, vote-buying, harassment of voters and switching of ballots.

Arroyo praised what she called relatively orderly balloting but urged Filipinos to remain “vigilant until the last vote is counted.” The military warned against violence or mass protests and said it would use “necessary force” to maintain order.

Arroyo did not directly respond to polls showing her ahead. But

she appeared confident and said “the important thing now is we must leave behind the rancor that unfortunately characterized the campaign.”

Poe later said his supporters should head to precincts and “tightly guard the counting.”

“This government should not use money and intimidation against the people,” Poe told reporters, without taking questions.

About 3,000 Poe supporters gathered in downtown Manila Tuesday evening, singing, “FPJ, the hope of the nation.”

The official count is expected to take weeks as workers tally tens of millions of paper ballots by hand.

On southern Jolo island, a powerful bomb exploded Wednesday, killing at least one person and injuring 11 others near a building where election ballots were being counted, police said.

No one claimed immediate responsibility for the attack and it was not immediately clear whether the blast was related to the elections.

The al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group is active in the predominantly Muslim island province, about 550 miles south of Manila.

On nearby Basilan island, unidentified men burned the municipal building in Tipo Tipo, the site of mayoral elections, military spokesman Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said. No one was injured.

Filipinos voted Monday without any major disruption, but there have been at least 115

election-related deaths since December, compared with the 67 deaths during the 1998 presidential campaign.

About 15 armed men barged into the San Mariano town hall in the northern province of Isabela late Tuesday, gunning down one policeman and wounding another, national police spokesman Joel Goltiao said. The men snatched six ballot boxes, then burned the ballots and the elections office, Goltiao said.

About two hours later, 16 armed men entered a municipal

building in nearby Jones town, about 185 miles north of Manila, and burned returns, Goltiao said. There were no injuries.

It was not known whether the same group carried out the attacks, but most of the violence has been linked to local elections. Isabela—a mountainous, log-producing province rife with Marxist guerrillas—has a history of election-related violence.

The Philippine military warned Tuesday against violence or massive protests, saying troops would use “necessary

force” to maintain order if losing parties try to stir up trouble.

The opposing camps already accuse one another of planning to manipulate the outcome by fixing the vote or overturning it through violence and mass demonstrations.

The 113,000-strong Philippine military remains on high alert and “will not hesitate to implement its plan and employ the necessary force to maintain the tranquility and order,” military spokesman Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero told The Associated Press.

Poe said Tuesday he believed he had won but was being cheated, telling reporters that many people were unable to vote and urging his supporters to “tightly guard the counting.”

The election in this poor Southeast Asian nation of 84 million people ends the constitutionally fragile period following the January 2001 ouster of the last elected president, Joseph Estrada, for alleged massive corruption and misrule. Estrada is a former film star and a friend of Poe.

TRIBUNE GRAD

World

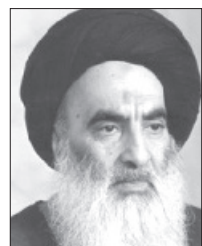
Iraqi cleric calls for end to fighting

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
AP WRITER

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)—Iraq's most respected Shiite cleric urged both U.S. soldiers and a radical cleric's militia Tuesday to withdraw from two Shiite holy cities where fighting has raged near some of Shia Islam's holiest shrines.

A statement released in Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani's name urged Iraqis not to travel to Najaf to join protests called by cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. Instead, he said, Shiites should join rallies elsewhere to demand that Najaf and Karbala "be rid of all armed manifestations."

However, the statement, which al-Sistani's aides distributed to reporters after nighttime skirmishes in Najaf, did not include the ayatollah's personal seal nor was it posted on his Web site, as is customary with religious decrees, or fatwas, which are binding on his followers.



al-Sistani

An aide to al-Sistani, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the ayatollah wants both the Americans and al-Sadr's al-Mahdi Army out of the holy cities in southern Iraq but has avoided an explicit call because he knows neither side is prepared to accept it.

Brig. Gen. Mark Hertling, deputy commander of the U.S. Army's 1st Armored Division, said there were indications that al-Sadr was trying to bring in fighters to reinforce his militia in Karbala, about 50 miles south of Baghdad.

"We are doing our best to intercept those people," Hertling said at Camp Lima, a military base on the outskirts of the city.

U.S. officials have insisted that al-Sadr disband his militia and answer charges in the murder of a rival cleric in April 2003. Al-Sadr has insisted that the Americans agree to defer charges until a new Iraqi government is elected next January.

In Baghdad, meanwhile, Iraqi officials announced that the FBI would



A U.S. Army soldier arrives at the scene of a burning pipeline at the al-Rashediah district, outside Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, May 18, 2004. The cause of the fire is unknown.

help an Iraqi team investigate Monday's killing of the head of the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council, and the U.S. administrator in Iraq vowed to continue the transfer of sovereignty to Iraqis as scheduled.

"Terrorists are trying to stop Iraq's march to sovereignty and peace," U.S. administrator L. Paul Bremer said at a memorial service in Baghdad for Izzadine Saleem, who was killed by

a suicide bomber near coalition headquarters. "They will not succeed."

"We must continue the political process leading to an interim government next month and to elections next year," he added.

The killing was a major setback to American efforts to stabilize Iraq just six weeks before the June 30 handover of sovereignty.

The U.S.-led coalition is struggling

Iraq inmates' kin want justice for abuse

ABU GHRAIB, Iraq (AP)—On the eve of the first court-martial in the Iraq prisoner abuse scandal, relatives of those still held at Abu Ghraib prison said Tuesday the only suitable punishment would be death—illustrating the potential gap in expectations in the case.

"If they actually committed such offenses, they should be executed," said Odai Ibrahim, 55, as he waited in a line with hundreds of other Iraqis to visit relatives at the prison on the western outskirts of Baghdad—notorious as the site of executions and torture during Saddam Hussein's regime.

But the first defendant, Spc. Jeremy C. Sivits, faces only a year in prison, a fine, reduction in pay and a bad conduct discharge. He has cooperated with authorities and is expected to testify against the others, who face more serious charges.

Three others—Staff Sgt. Ivan Frederick, Sgt. Javal Davis, and Spc. Charles Graner Jr.—will be arraigned

Wednesday before Sivits goes on trial. The arraignments and the Sivits trial will be open to media coverage. Nine Arab newspaper or broadcast journalists are among 34 news organizations to be allowed seats in the courtroom.

The U.S. military hopes the presence in the courtroom of such prominent Arab media as the Al-Arabiya and Al-Jazeera television networks will demonstrate American resolve to determine who was responsible for the abuse and punish the guilty.

However, the U.S. military has barred the broadcast of Wednesday's hearings on radio or television, and is prohibiting all recording devices and mobile phones from the courtroom.

Pictures of prisoners subjected to sexual humiliation and other brutality at the hands of American military police guards have generated a wave of international outrage and prompted some to question the Bush administration's commitment to bringing democracy to Iraq.

to contain an insurgency in Sunni areas north and west of Baghdad, as well as an uprising in a Shiite district of Baghdad and the Shiite heartland to the south led by al-Sadr.

Coalition officials estimate that about 265 Iraqi fighters have been killed since the uprising began in early April. According to an Associated Press tally, 254 Iraqis have been killed since April 5.

Before dawn Tuesday, U.S. troops killed nine fighters loyal to al-Sadr in Karbala, said Mutaz al-Hasani, a witness who saw their bodies. Ten Iraqi fighters were wounded in the clashes near the city's Imam Hussein and Imam Abbas shrines.

At least five Iraqi insurgents were killed during clashes in Karbala later in the day, according to Capt. Noel Gorospe, a U.S. military spokesman there.

Honduras jail fire was arson?

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras (AP)—Survivors of a prison fire that officials blamed on a short-circuit claimed Tuesday that the inferno that killed more than 100 gang members was intentionally set by fellow inmates.

A similar fire that broke out a year ago during clashes at the nearby La Ceiba prison killed 70 gang members. As in Monday's fire, last year's blaze burned only a cellblock housing the gangs.

Most of those killed were members of the feared Mara Salvatrucha 13 gang, characterized by tattoos of saints, skulls, daggers and dice.

"Many of the guys who died in there were in jail just because they had tattoos," said 18-year-old gang member Olmon Alberto Contreras, who lay in a hospital bed with severe burns.

At least 103 of 186 prisoners in the cell block—the only one of 18 at the prison to burn—died in the blaze at the state prison in San Pedro Sula, 110 miles north of the capital, Tegucigalpa.

Some were burned to death; others died from smoke inhalation. The death toll was expected to rise as many of the survivors lay in hospital beds with burns over as much as half their bodies.

The government acknowledged overcrowding and poor conditions in Honduras jail cells and promised to provide more funding.

But some survivors alleged that other inmates set the fire by throwing gasoline

into their cell block and lighting the fuel, while officials stood by and did nothing. The gang members say the guards' apathy was part of a government strategy of elimination that began with last year's federal anti-gang law.

"When you sow hatred, you reap hatred," Contreras said. "As you treat us, we will treat you. If you hit me, I must seek revenge."

Government authorities deny they are out to exterminate the gangs but say tough action is necessary to control an increasingly violent force blamed for everything from common crimes to grisly homicides.

Many of those killed Monday were detained during the country's recent crackdown on the estimated 100,000 gang members in Honduras.

In August, President Ricardo Maduro succeeded in passing legislation outlawing gangs and establishing minimum sentences of 12 years for their members.

Authorities initially said the fire in San Pedro was caused by an overheated refrigerator because inmates said they heard the appliance explode. Firefighters later said it appeared an air conditioner short-circuit was to blame and the resulting fire ignited bedding and curtains. They said they found about 75 electrical devices - air conditioners, fans and refrigerators - in the 30-by-45-foot cell block.

UN refugee chief says image damaged

WASHINGTON (AP)—Humanitarian workers are hamstrung by a perception among Muslims that they are enemies of Islam, the U.N. refugee chief said Tuesday, a situation that makes it impossible to know when his agency can return to Iraq.

The U.N. Refugee Agency, International Committee of the Red Cross and other humanitarian agencies "have been badly damaged by the demonization of others," said Ruud Lubbers, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and former Dutch prime minister.

In a speech at the National Press Club, Lubbers blamed President Bush's rhetoric for some of the problem, specifically his characterization

of Iraq, Iran and North Korea as an "axis of evil" in his first State of the Union address, in 2002.

"We've been damaged by the 'axis of evil', this ... vision of the world as split between the good and the evil," Lubbers said. "Unfortunately, like others we are paying the price for this, for we have also come to be seen as part of a supposed Western crusade against the world of Islam."

Recent security problems and tension in southern Iraq have led the United Nations to suspend UNHCR convoys carrying Iraqi refugees back from Iran, he said. Threats of illegal checkpoints, hijackings and other security problems are some of

the reasons local transporters refuse to carry passengers beyond Basra, Lubbers said.

The attack in August, in which a truck bomber struck the Baghdad headquarters of the United Nations, has "left a horrible legacy but a true dilemma for humanitarian workers on how, and indeed if, our work can be conducted without jeopardizing our own lives," Lubbers said. The top U.N. envoy in Iraq was killed with 22 other people.

Al-Qaida, the international terror network that was the original target of Bush's war on terror, purportedly has put a bounty on the heads of U.N. staff, killed or captured, he said.

Israeli troops kill 20 in Gaza camp raid

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—Under heavy cover fire from helicopters, Israeli troops combed this refugee camp for weapons and gunmen Tuesday in the biggest Gaza offensive in years. Twenty Palestinians were killed, including two teenagers shot as they gathered laundry.

The death toll was the highest one-day total since 35 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank city in Ramallah on April 5, 2002.

International condemnation mounted against the operation, and the United States said it was asking Israel for “clarification.” The United Nations and European Union demanded an end to the incursion, which Israeli security officials said would last at least a week.

Early Wednesday, Israeli forces entered the refugee camp next to the West Bank town of Jenin, sparking an exchange of fire that left an armed Palestinian dead, the military said. Israel Radio said the casualty was a local leader of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, linked to Yasser Arafat’s Fatah movement.

Around the same times, another Al Aqsa militant was killed in an exchange of fire with Israeli soldiers in the West Bank city of Nablus, witnesses said. Soldiers also searched for terror suspects in three apartment buildings, after ordering about 200 people to leave.

In Rafah, a crowded camp of 90,000 people near the Egyptian border, Palestinian families sought refuge from the rocket and machine-gun fire in the innermost rooms of their homes.

Electrician Khaled Al-Assar, 38, said he sat with his wife and five children in one room of their house as gunfire rattled all around and a missile landed

nearby, shattering windows. “The kids were terrified, there was very loud boom, they started screaming and crying,” he said.

Not everyone stayed inside, and the consequences could be deadly. Ahmed Mughayer, 13, and his sister Asma, 16, were killed by Israeli fire when they ventured onto the roof of their three-story apartment building to bring in laundry, their father Mohammed said.

Mughayer said his wife had told Asma not to go out because of the shooting. “Asma said, ‘Don’t worry, I’ll be careful,’” he said.

The Israeli army said the aim of “Operation Rainbow” was to destroy weapons-smuggling tunnels and arrest Palestinian militants. It said it did not intend to demolish large numbers of Palestinian homes. Troops tore down four homes Tuesday, witnesses said.

Last week, Israel destroyed about 100 houses, making more than 1,000 Palestinians homeless.

Troops moved Tuesday into the Tel Sultan neighborhood on the outskirts of the Rafah camp. Bulldozers began tearing up a road to separate the neighborhood from the rest of the camp, and soldiers backed by about 70 armored vehicles conducted house-to-house searches, sometimes using bulldozers to knock down doors.

The army said most of the casualties were gunmen killed by missiles or machine-gun fire as they prepared to attack troops.

Residents said at least nine civilians were among the dead. At least 42 Palestinians were wounded.

Some Palestinians tried to reach safer ground. Thousands have left their homes in Rafah since the weekend, hauling away their possessions on tractors and donkey carts.

In all, 19 Palestinians in

Rafah were killed by Israeli fire—10 in two missile strikes, and nine by machine-gun fire, said Dr. Moawiya Hassanain, a Palestinian Health Ministry official. A 20th man was killed while handling explosives.



Smoke billows from the Palestinian refugee camp of Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, Tuesday, May 18, 2004.

AP

Nations urged to meet costs of peacekeeping

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged the 191 U.N. member states to meet the “surging demand” for U.N. peacekeeping troops, which could add an extra \$1 billion to this year’s \$2.82 billion peacekeeping budget.

Last month, he said, more than 53,000 troops, military observers and civilian police were serving in 15 U.N. missions around the world from East Timor to Lebanon and Ivory Coast - the highest number since 1995.

“Even more missions loom on the horizon,” he said. “The Security Council has recently authorized a new mission in Haiti and has expanded the existing mission in Ivory Coast. Missions are being planned for Burundi and Sudan.”

Annan told an open Security Council meeting that a recent study by Oxford University economists found that the aver-

age economic cost of civil wars averaged \$128 billion a year in lost revenue and output.

Measured against this loss, he said, “peacekeeping is extremely cost-effective.”

“Our duty must be to meet this demand and to seize the opportunities to bring longstanding conflicts to an end,” Annan said. “For millions of our fellow human beings, U.N. peacekeeping missions offer their best—and sometimes only—hope of emerging from conflict towards a safe and stable future.”

A statement adopted by the Security Council at the end of the meeting called on member states to provide the United Nations “with full political and financial support to meet these challenges effectively.” It also urged them to provide sufficient levels of trained troops, police, and civilian personnel.

TRIB GRAD AD

Life & Style

'American Idol' down to the final vote

By **BERNARD MCGHEE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

The governor of Georgia amassed hundreds of friends and fans of Diana DeGarmo at the governor's mansion Tuesday to support the "American Idol" finalist, but it may not be enough: The last night of the singing contest belonged to her competitor, Fantasia Barrino.

While DeGarmo stumbled in the middle of what had been one of her strongest songs during the series, Melissa Manchester's "Don't Cry Out Loud," Barrino was flawless throughout, and the judges were effusive in their praise.

"The stage is yours - it's your night, my dear, it's your night," Paula Abdul said after Barrino's final song, titled "I Believe."

Barrino seemed to believe, too. Tears streamed down her face and she heaved with sobs.

"I think you are, without question, the best contestant we've had in any competition," Simon Cowell said, comparing her to the approximately 70 singers who've won "Idol" contests in countries around the world.

As for DeGarmo, Cowell said: "I think you had one last chance



American Idol host Ryan Seacrest, left, introduces the finalists Fantasia Barrino, center, and Diana DeGarmo during the finale of the music competition show Tuesday, May 25, 2004, at the Kodak Theatre in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

AP

to come and nail this competition and I don't think you did."

She received some positive remarks too. Judge Randy Jackson said after DeGarmo finished singing "No More Tears" by Barbra Streisand and Donna Summer, "You're singing your face off tonight."

Gov. Sonny Perdue told the 16-year-old from Snellville,

Ga., on the phone after the show that he hopes she wins despite Cowell's comments.

"We think you really kicked it tonight, and America's going to show Simon he doesn't know what he's talking about," Perdue said at the governor's mansion in Atlanta. Earlier he had declared Tuesday "Dial for Diana DeGarmo Day" in the

state, and asked Georgians to support the singer by watching her on the Fox series and voting for her by phone.

The lines were open for four hours Tuesday night - twice as long as usual - to allow viewers to choose between DeGarmo and 19-year-old Barrino from High Point, N.C. The winner, who will be announced

Wednesday night in a two-hour finale, receives a recording contract and instant fame.

Each performed three songs Tuesday night before a live, nationally televised audience from the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles, home of the Academy Awards. One of them was "I Believe," written by former "Idol" contestant Tamyra Gray, which

the winner will go on to record.

In Barrino's hometown, nearly 1,600 supporters watched the show from Providence Place auditorium. Fans were poised and ready with their cell phones as the show ended.

Similar to Perdue, North Carolina Gov. Mike Easley had urged residents to show support for their "favorite daughter."

"He encourages people to watch the show and vote for the best talent - and that's Fantasia," said Ernie Seneca, a spokesman for Easley, who is a fan of the show.

Easley sent a letter to Barrino last week inviting her to visit him regardless of the outcome of the final "Idol" voting. He described Barrino as an "amazing talent" and a "larger-than-life personality" that has made her a star to millions of North Carolina residents.

The show's judges have said all along that they think Barrino is the better singer, but they function only in an advisory role. Abdul said in an interview Tuesday on Fox's "Good Day Live" that she thought either finalist could win, depending on the strength of their performances.

Sander's images at Met capture Germany

NEW YORK (AP)—With a simple box camera on a tripod and compassion for social diversity, August Sander captured the soul of turbulent Germany in his riveting portraits of the common man.

His slice-of-life photographs group early 20th-century Germans into seven categories—farmers, skilled tradesmen, women, professionals and social classes, artists, urban dwellers and "the last people"—handicapped, social misfits and Nazi victims.

"People of the 20th Century, a Photographic Portrait of Germany," which opened Tuesday at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, shows 150 of Sander's most renowned images—less than 10 percent of the 1,800 portraits in his monumental survey. The larger collection is covered in a seven-volume edition offered at \$99.50.

Most of Sander's subjects are unnamed and unsung and represent his forays into all realms of German society over a 50-year period as a commercial photographer and documentary artist based in Cologne, starting in 1910.

But candid shots of famous figures of the Weimar Republic and later years are also in the collection: former Cologne Mayor Konrad Adenauer and former German President Paul von Hindenburg in an open car in 1926; painter Otto Dix, composers Richard Strauss and Paul Hindemith, pianist Max van de Sandt, performance artist Raoul Hausmann and the photographer himself, pictured in 1925.

Included in the show are icons of photo portrait history such as "Young Farmers" (1914), "Middle-Class Children" (1925) and "Pastrycook" (1928). But the sweep of Sander's black-and-white photos captures an entire society in ferment.

Human drama is palpable in the faces he captured on film, and the subjects achieve a level of timelessness and universality, transporting viewers to a bygone, if tragic era.

Sander's pictures show rural families in Sunday finery outside their half-timbered farm houses,



DIE PHOTOGRAPHISCHE SAMMLUNG/SK STIFTUNG KULTUR-AUGUST SANDER ARCHIV, COLOGNE/ARS, NY

This is an image taken by August Sander entitled "Middle-class Children" taken in 1925.

bricklayers and factory hands on the job, fraternity students with dueling scars, industrialists and shop merchants, circus performers and vagabonds, blind children in orphanages, school scenes in small towns and sophisticated urban women.

ptc-jva

Love pleads guilty to misdemeanor

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rock star Courtney Love pleaded guilty Tuesday to a misdemeanor count of being under the influence of a controlled substance and agreed to enter a drug rehabilitation program.

“Guilty,” Love said softly when the judge asked for her plea.

Love, 39, also answered “Yes” several times when asked if she understood the terms of the plea agreement. Sentencing was set for July 16.

Assistant City Attorney Jerry Baik told reporters that the rehabilitation effort will last several months and is an outpatient program that includes classes, counseling and probably random drug testing.

At the end of the program,

Love may petition to have the case dismissed. If she fails the drug program, she could be sentenced to at least 90 days in jail.

The count to which she pleaded involved cocaine and other opiates found in her system. A count of disorderly conduct will most likely be dismissed at sentencing, Baik said.

Love, in a lilac sweater, floral print dress and teal high heels, was low key compared to recent court hearings, including a rambling speech in the women’s bathroom after a court appearance in New York earlier this month. On Monday, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Patricia M. Schnegg had to ask her to speak up.

Love separately faces felony charges in Beverly Hills, where

she has pleaded innocent to illegally possessing prescription painkillers. She could face up to three years and eight months in prison if convicted in that case.

The two cases stemmed from encounters with police on the same night last October.

Love was initially arrested after allegedly trying to break into the home of a former boyfriend. After being released, officers responding to a call from Love, went to her home and she gave them a small bag of pills, according to a police officer’s testimony.

On May 13, Love was arraigned in New York on charges of assault and reckless endangerment for allegedly hitting a fan with a microphone stand at a club in March.



Rock star Courtney Love appears in Superior Court, Tuesday, May 25, 2004, in Los Angeles.

AP

Madonna cancels shows in Israel

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Madonna says she has canceled three Israeli stops on her “Re-Invention” tour because of violence in the region, including the killing of the leader of the militant group Hamas.

Madonna, who kicked off her worldwide tour in Los Angeles on Monday, told “Access Hollywood” that her manager wouldn’t let her travel to Israel because of the “attack on the leader of Hamas.”

“It’s not a good idea to go there and do concerts,” she told the syndicated entertainment TV show in an interview that aired Monday.

London tabloids had reported that the singer backed out of the Israeli stops, scheduled for September, after an unidentified Palestinian terror group threatened her and her children, Lourdes, 7, and Rocco, 3.

Missy Elliott cancels Indonesia show

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Hip-hop star Missy Elliott canceled a planned concert in Jakarta after the U.S. Embassy warned Americans about potential terrorist attacks in Indonesia.

Elliott had been scheduled to perform Wednesday as part of an international tour.

“We apologize to all the fans of Missy Elliott because of this cancellation,” Roberto of Lunar Entertainment, the show’s

promoter, said Tuesday.

Roberto, who uses a single name like many Indonesians, said ticket holders will get refunds.

The U.S. Embassy issued a statement Friday reminding U.S. citizens to remain aware of the “continued potential for terrorist attacks against Americans or American interests in Indonesia and worldwide.”

“A convergence of local

and international factors has increased the potential threat,” the embassy said.

The embassy cited the continuing trials of Indonesian terror suspects, the country’s presidential election campaign, anti-American sentiment stirred up by U.S. actions in Iraq and “information gathered worldwide indicating that terrorist groups contemplate additional attacks.”

New York, Toronto, Manchester and London.

Israel’s military killed the founder of Hamas, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, in March and the group’s Gaza leader, Abdul-Aziz Rantisi, in April.

Awards season starts early for Meryl Streep

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Oscars just ended, but Meryl Streep and Steve Martin are rekindling awards season already.

Streep is set to accept the Life Achievement Award from the American Film Institute on June 10, the group announced Tuesday. Last year’s recipient was her “Deer Hunter” co-star Robert De Niro.

The 32nd annual ceremony, with planned appearances by Jim Carey, Goldie Hawn, Robert Redford, Kevin Kline and director Mike Nichols, is set for broadcast on the USA Network on June 21.

Previous winners include Clint Eastwood, Barbra Streisand, Tom Hanks and filmmaker Steven Spielberg.

Meanwhile, Martin has been

picked as the honoree at this year’s American Cinematheque career achievement honor, planned for Nov. 12.

The actor-comedian was selected for a body of work that includes “The Jerk,” “Dead Men Don’t Wear Plaid,” “Parenthood” and the upcoming “Shopgirl,” which is based on his own novella.

“Steve Martin is a unique Hollywood star—a Renaissance man—actor, comedian, screenwriter, playwright, novelist, producer, art collector,” said Rick Nicita, chairman of the organization’s board.

Nicole Kidman was last year’s honoree, and previous recipients include Eddie Murphy, Mel Gibson, Sean Connery and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Phish breaks up with new album approaching

NEW YORK (AP)—Phish, the enormously popular jam band that experimented with myriad musical genres and whose legions of dedicated fans made them a younger version of The Grateful Dead, announced Tuesday that they are breaking up.

The surprise announcement came as the band prepared to release a new album, “Undermind,” on June 15. They will still embark on a summer tour June 17 at Coney Island in New York City.

Band leader Trey Anastasio made the announcement on www.phish.com.

“Last Friday night, I got together with Mike, Page and Fish

to talk openly about the strong feelings I’ve been having that Phish has run its course and that we should end it now while it’s still on a high note,” he wrote.

“We all love and respect Phish and the Phish audience far too much to stand by and allow it to drag on beyond the point of vibrancy and health.”

In Phish-land, the news hit hard.

Dean Budnick, senior editor of the music magazine Relix and editor of jambands.com, said he had gotten about 100 e-mails in two hours “just expressing grief on some level.”

“There’s a lot of kids out there who are so excited about having

that adventure with this band who feel very stymied,” he said.

The quartet, which includes Anastasio, Jon Fishman, Mike Gordon and Page McConnell, was formed in 1983. The band drew thousands of fans to their concerts with marathon performances and long, experimental jams that melded every type of music, from bluegrass to electronica.

Peter Shapiro, executive producer of the Jammy Awards, which celebrates the jam band music scene, said the band struck a chord with people who appreciated the band’s experimental nature.

“I think in a time when so

much of music is about a four-and-half minute songs, a radio single, a video, and a choreographed concert, people found it really refreshing to have a band that would play different songs every night of the tour, that would release albums without a radio single on it,” he said.

Some shows drew up to 80,000 fans, and for many of them, the band became the center of their universe. Much like the fans of the Grateful Dead before them, fans—known as Phish-heads—would follow the band from show to show. Phish’s encouragement of taping their concerts also endeared them to audiences.

wallace

Cage, Presley finalize divorce

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nicolas Cage and Lisa Marie Presley took nearly a year and a half to end a marriage that lasted less than four months.

The divorce was finalized Monday, according to court papers filed in Superior Court. The documents show that neither will pay financial support to the other

and each will retain any assets they had prior to the marriage.

They filed for separation in November 2002, just a few months after their romantic wedding in Hawaii in August of that year.

The actor—filing under his real name, Nicolas Coppola—cited irreconcilable differences as the reason for the split in the

original divorce petition.

"I'm sad about this, but we shouldn't have been married in the first place. It was a big mistake," Presley said in a statement at the time.

Lawyers for the entertainers did not immediately return calls for comment on Tuesday.

Presley, the only child of Elvis

Presley, was married previously to musician Danny Keough and pop singer Michael Jackson. It was the second marriage for Cage, who divorced actress Patricia Arquette in 2000.

Presley has two children from her marriage to Keough, and Cage has a son from a previous relationship.

Beckham says he's a good husband, father

LONDON (AP)—David Beckham, accused in the press of having extramarital affairs, said he's a good husband and father, and that the media had treated him unfairly.

"I've made it clear ... the way I and my family have been treated is an absolute disgrace because at the end of the day, I'm a nice person and loving husband and father," he said Tuesday at a training camp on the island of Sardinia.

"I've been called a bad father, I've been called a bad husband and my wife has been called a bad mother," said Beckham, who plays for Real Madrid and the English national soccer team.

Beckham, one of the world's most recognizable sports stars, has dismissed claims that he had affairs with two women as ludicrous. He is married to former Spice Girl Victoria Beckham, and the couple have two young sons, Brooklyn and Romeo.

"Things always hurt that are said about my family, and for people to call my wife a bad mother is unbelievable," he said.

Rebecca Loos, Beckham's former personal assistant, and Malaysian-born Sarah Marbeck have claimed to have had affairs with him.

In an interview in the July



England's David Beckham in the Forte Village, Sardinia, Italy, Monday May 25, 2004.

issue of Marie Claire, on sale Thursday in England, Victoria Beckham said her husband has "always been faithful."

"I really do believe that deep down that I have the most faithful husband I could hope for," she was quoted as saying.

"He's always been faithful and nothing has changed at all. I can honestly say that I am really lucky to have him."

Jen of 'The Bachelor' to keep ring

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jen Schefft says she and Andrew Firestone of "The Bachelor" have a bond despite their split—and she's got the engagement ring.

"Obviously, it's a beautiful ring and Andrew said that he bought that for me and that it was mine to keep, so I'm gonna keep it," Schefft says on "The Bachelor: After the Final Rose."

Last May, Firestone proposed to Schefft on the season finale of "The Bachelor." Their breakup was announced in December.

The special episode of the reality dating show airs 9 p.m.

EDT Wednesday on ABC.

Schefft also talks about a reality crossover: briefly dating "The Apprentice" winner Bill Rancic.

"It was just sort of bad timing for the both of us. ... I know he's gonna be busy ... and he should be focusing on what he has to do, but I'm also looking for someone who's gonna have a little more time for me."

The latest edition of "The Bachelor" ended last week with football player Jesse Palmer telling Jessica Bowlin he wanted to pursue a relationship with her. He didn't propose.

'West Wing' star Allison Janney engaged

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Allison Janney of "The West Wing" found her heart in San Francisco, where she and actor Richard Jenik became engaged to marry.

The couple, who live in Los Angeles and have dated for two years, were vacationing in the city May 17 when he popped the question, a spokesman for Janney said Wednesday.

Janney is a three-time Emmy winner for her role as press secretary C.J. Cregg on the NBC White House drama. Her workaholic character finds little time for love.

A wedding date was not announced. Jenik has appeared in TV series including "Home Improvement" and "The District" and in the 2002 film "Hidden Agenda."



U.S. tennis player Serena Williams gestures during a news conference, Saturday May 22, 2004, in Paris.

Serena Williams visits Cannes Festival

PARIS (AP)—En route to the French Open, Serena Williams paid a visit to the Cannes Film Festival. She enjoyed the glamour of it all, saw some movies, and even chatted with Tom Hanks about acting.

The 22-year-old tennis star was thrilled to meet Hanks, a two-time Oscar winner.

"I saw that movie 'Turner & Hooch' at least 50 times. It took all my guts to go up to him," Williams recounted. "I was like, 'Can I have a picture?' He said,

'Are you kidding? I have my camera, too.' It was cool. It was like, 'Wow!'"

Besides acting, Williams finds time to design clothes—for her own line, Aneres, and for Nike as part of a sponsorship deal that could be worth nearly \$40 million over five years.

"Tennis is my first love," she said Sunday. "I like nothing more than walking out there and just having the crowd clap and clap and clap. It's just an unbelievable feeling for me."

Man's devotion to little cousin may be less than wholesome

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: "Resentful in Illinois" described her husband as so obsessed with his cousin's little daughter that he acts as though she is his child—saying he is "in withdrawal" if he doesn't see her often.

"Resentful" confided that she would love to have a child of her own and was hurt because her husband kept postponing it. She asked you if she was overreacting. You suggested that the child might really be her husband's.

Abby, you missed one other important possibility. "Resentful's" husband may be involved with that child in an inappropriate relationship. Statistics show that 80 percent of sexual abuse of children occurs in a relationship with someone the child, the mother and other family members trust.

"Resentful" should watch for any signs that the relationship has gone too far. If the husband is resistant to marriage counseling, it could be a red flag.

I am a pediatrician. I deal with some of these same situations in my medical practice.

DISTURBED PHYSICIAN IN CINCINNATI

DEAR DISTURBED PHYSICIAN: Yours was one of several hundred letters and e-mails I received echoing the same suspicion. Although "Resentful in Illinois" wrote anonymously, I'm printing your letter because I thought she should see your take on the situation. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: In your response to "Resentful in Illinois," you mentioned the man's excessive attachment to his niece. The child of his cousin is his "first cousin once removed," not his niece.

MOLLY IN DENVER

DEAR MOLLY: Thank you for straightening out my genealogy terminology.

DEAR ABBY: "Sonia" and I have been married 10 years and have two young sons. Our marriage has been rocky for the last few years. Six months ago, I told her we had to get counseling—which we did. After the second session she refused to go back. I suspect she realized that our counselor knew she was lying.

Sonia doesn't think I deserve a sex life. She picks arguments with me, and when I walk away she berates me. She seems to enjoy fighting in front of the children. She threatens me in front of them that she's going to "take everything," and I'll be left with nothing. I promise my boys repeatedly that I will never leave them.

Sonia has a part-time job. She refuses to work full time because if we split up, she "wouldn't get as much child support." Last week she told me the only reason she married me was because I made good money. Now I'm unable to work because of a back injury, and Sonia complains my disability check isn't enough to maintain the lifestyle she deserves.

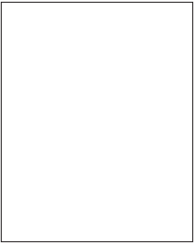
Abby, I pay all the bills. I do most of the cooking and cleaning. My kids mean everything to me. I am not leaving my home, but living with Sonia is becoming more difficult by the day. Please give me some advice.

TROUBLED HUSBAND IN MAINE

DEAR TROUBLED HUSBAND: You are married to a verbal abuser, a person with no regard for the emotional security and well-being of your children or for your feelings. It is now time to consider how destructive this kind of atmosphere is for the children. Since counseling hasn't worked, consult an attorney and thoroughly explore your options. However, before you do, carefully document exactly what your wife is doing and saying. Be sure to include dates and times. It will strengthen your case.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$10 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

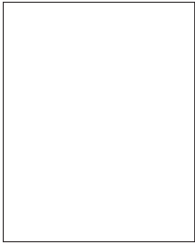


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